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WEST BASIN UNVEILS OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDEN AT GARDENA MAYME DEAR LIBRARY



CARSON, Calif. – West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) and the City of Gardena (Gardena) hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 20 that unveiled an Ocean Friendly Garden (OFG) at the Mayme Dear Library, a County of Los Angeles Public Library in Gardena.

“It’s especially important to make sure we’re still conserving water with these warmer temperatures,” said West Basin Division V Director Donald L. Dear. “Programs like the Ocean Friendly

Gardens allow the community to get a better look at how to make conservation an everyday way of life.”

Gardena Mayor Tasha Cerda joined Director Dear, and over 50 officials, community members and event partners to celebrate the grand unveiling.

“I’m excited that the City of Gardena will demonstrate an Eco Friendly Garden to all who pass by and visit Mayme Dear Library, with the hope that this garden will encourage future generations to see the benefits of Conservation,” said Mayor Cerda.

Installed with the help of Gardena residents, the 2,240 square-foot sustainable garden demonstrates drought-tolerant techniques and encourages residents to implement similar gardens at home. This particular garden contains: drip irrigation, runoff capture, a permeable pathway, mulch and California native plants.

The [OFG Landscape Program](#) is comprised of four major components. The construction of Ocean Friendly Demonstration Gardens at public sites is a key component, along with various workshops, events and rebates. The program aims to conserve water while still creating aesthetically pleasing gardens, addressing runoff problems and reducing outdoor water usage by 20 to 50 percent. To date, West Basin has completed 15 of its 16 planned OFGs throughout its 185 square mile service area.

Attendees included local residents, members of the Gardena Valley Friends of the Library, and a representative from the office of Los Angeles County Board Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. Supervisor

Ridley-Thomas' Deputy, Lacey Johnson presented a certificate to West Basin recognizing the District for its contributions to Los Angeles County.

"In addition to enhancing the look and feel of the Gardena Library, our hope is that this garden will inspire our library patrons to enhance their own gardens in a way that promotes sustainability and water conservation," said Los Angeles County Supervisor and Board Chairman Mark Ridley-Thomas.

The project was funded by the California Department of Water Resources and the County of Los Angeles Public Library. It was built in partnership with the County of Los Angeles Public Library, City of Gardena, Golden State Water Company, G3 Green Gardens Group, and Surfrider Foundation.

For more information about West Basin's Ocean Friendly Garden and other water conservation programs, visit www.westbasin.org.

Photo from L to R: *County of Los Angeles Public Library's Pat McGee, Gardena Mayor Pro Tem Dan Medina, West Basin Director Gloria D. Gray, West Basin Director Donald L. Dear, Gardena Mayor Tasha Cerda, County of Los Angeles Public Library Chief Deputy Director Yolanda Deramus, Office of Mark-Ridley Thomas Deputy Lacey Johnson, Gardena Councilmember Art Kaskanian*

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West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) is a wholesale water agency that provides imported drinking water to nearly one million people in 17 cities and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County. West Basin is an industry leader in water recycling, conservation, and water education. West Basin is currently implementing a Water Reliability program to reduce the agency's dependence on imported water and develop drought-proof local water supplies. The program includes water recycling, water conservation, groundwater desalting and ocean water desalination. Visit www.westbasin.org to learn more.